

Message Text

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APPROVED BY NEA:ALATHERTONJR.
IO:DRTOUSSAINT
S:RAHERNE
S/S:AOTTO

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 107508 TOSEC 110643

EXDIS

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN, PLO

SUBJECT:ACTION MEMORANDUM - US STANCE ON PLO PARTICIPATION
IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL (S/S NO.7609183)

1. THE PROBLEM.

AT EGYPT'S REQUEST, THE SECURITY COUNCIL WILL MEET ON
THE WEST BANK QUESTION INFORMALLY TUESDAY MORNING MAY 4
AND PROBABLY OPEN FORMAL DEBATE THAT AFTERNOON. THE FIRST
ISSUE UP FOR DECISION WILL BE PLO SEATING. HOW SHOULD
THE U.S. REACT?

2. BACKGROUND.

WHEN THE PLO REQUESTED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE
DECEMBER, JANUARY, AND MARCH SECURITY COUNCIL DEBATES,
THE UNITED STATES OPPOSED THEIR PARTICIPATION UNDER AN
AD HOC PROCEDURE WHICH GAVE THEM THE SAME RIGHTS AS A
MEMBER STATE. ON ALL THREE OCCASIONS WE CALLED FOR A VOTE.
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IN DECEMBER IT WAS 9-3(US) TO 3, BUT BY MARCH WE WERE THE

ONLY MEMBER OBJECTING TO PLO PARTICIPATION UNDER THIS
PROCEDURE, ALTHOUGH FRANCE, ITALY AND THE UK ABSTAINED.

WE CANNOT BLOCK PLO PARTICIPATION AND THEY WILL NO DOUBT
BE INVITED AS BEFORE.

3. OPTIONS.

1. WE CAN ADOPT THE SAME POSTURE AS WE HAVE ON THE
THREE PREVIOUS MEETINGS, CALL FOR THE VOTE, OPPOSE PLO
PARTICIPATION UNDER THE AD HOC PROCEDURE, AND BE DEFEATED.

PRO:

IT CONTINUES OUR POSITION WITHOUT CHANGE IN REGARD
TO THE PLO. NO ONE WILL BE SURPRISED. THE ISRAELIS
WOULD BE PLEASED.

CON:

WE SEEM TO OTHERS TO BE TILTING WITH WINDMILLS,
ALWAYS CALLING FOR A VOTE WHEN WE KNOW WE WILL LOSE.

2. WE CAN STATE OUR OPPOSITION TO PLO PARTICIPA-
TION UNDER THIS PROCEDURE FOR THE RECORD BUT NOT CALL FOR
THE VOTE.

PRO:

BY THUS BEING MORE FORTHCOMING, WE MIGHT BE ABLE
TO GAIN SOME SMALL NEGOTIATING LEVERAGE WHEN IT
COMES TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION.

CON: MIGHT BE SEEN AS A LESSENING OF OPPOSITION
TO THE PLO IN THE UN CONTEXT. THE ISRAELIS WILL SEE IT
AS A FURTHER ERODING OF THE US POSITION ON THE PLO.

4. RECOMMENDATION:

IO AND NEA RECOMMEND OPTION 1. NO ONE WILL BE
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SURPRISED AT OUR CONTINUING THE PRACTICE WE HAVE
FOLLOWED IN THE PAST.

APPROVE DISAPPROVE

5. DRAFTED BY:IO/UNP:POAKLEY. CLEARED BY:IO:DRTOUSSAINT
AND NEA:ALATHERTON. S:RAHERNE

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